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12 SEP 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Economic Research
FROM: Director of Central Intelligence
SUBJECT: Soviet Oil Consumption

1. Bob Bowie may well have mentioned this to you, but I thought you'd be interested in a comment we both received [redacted]

[redacted] told us that Soviet oil consumption was going down rapidly. They were, for instance, insuring that new electric generating plants coming on line were capable of being either oil, gas or coal fired. He further indicated that although they didn't drive as many automobiles as we, there was lots of room for savings in consumption of gasoline.

2. His bottom line, however was that by 1985 the Soviets would be self-sufficient but not much more (not counting the Eastern European satellites).

3. Do we have a capability of determining whether they are taking steps that could result in a substantial decrease in oil consumption?

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